

Application No.: 09/913,614
Amendment Dated: November 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action: July 9, 2004

MTS-3278US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 3-5, 7-11, 30 and 31 are pending. Claim 32 is newly added.

Response to Restriction Requirement

Applicants have elected claims 2-5, 7-11 and 30-31. The non-elected claims and claim 2 have now been cancelled.

Abstract

As requested, a new Abstract is now enclosed.

Section 102/103 Rejections

Independent claims 2 and 8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Sakurai. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 2 has now been rewritten as newly added claim 32 (claim 2 has now been cancelled). Newly added claim 32 includes features which are not suggested by the cited reference, namely:

- **first, second and third devices, each device separate from the other;**
- the first device including:

information input means..., information display means..., selecting means..., and output means..., and **directly sending the designated contents to the third device;**

- the second device including a data base, and search means...; and

- the third device including:

receiving means of **receiving directly from the second device the designated contents held by the first device.**

Basis for newly added claim 32 may be found, for example, in Fig. 12. As shown, search terminal device 20 is separate from information server device 21. Both of these devices (20 and 21) are separate from external apparatus 200. Accordingly, three separate devices are now explicitly recited in newly added claim 32. The search terminal device (the first device) includes information input means, information display means, selecting means and output means. The information server device (the second device) includes a data base and search means for searching the data base, based on search conditions provided by the first device. Finally, the external apparatus (the third device) includes receiving means of receiving directly from the second device the designated contents held by the first device.

The invention, as recited in newly added claim 32, advantageously provides three separate devices. The first device may be small and may easily obtain search result information from a remote data base. Furthermore, after the search results are obtained by the first device, the first device may easily send the search results directly to a third device. Any updates in search means and information for the data base may simply be incorporated into the remote second device. The first device may be kept simple and does not need to be upgraded, because the first device may simply obtain new search results from the remote data base of the second device and may directly send the search results to the third device.

Sakurai discloses an input unit that provides hand written data as stroke data to a control unit. The control unit stores the stroke data as a hand written memo into a data base. The control unit classifies the stroke data and stores the classification result as possible retrieval information in the hand written memo data base. As shown in Fig. 1 of Sakurai, the input unit, the display unit, the control unit, the data base and the hand written memo data base are all integrated into a **single unit**.

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Sakurai does **not** disclose or suggest **first, second, and third devices, where each device is separate from the other**. Sakurai does **not** disclose **directly receiving the designated contents from the remote data base and directly sending the designated contents to the third device**. Sakurai, therefore, does not disclose the advantage of three separate and independent devices.

Although not the same, claim 8 has been amended to include features similar to newly added claim 32. Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 8.

Dependent claims 3-5, 7 and 9-11 depend, respectively, from newly added claim 32 and amended claim 8. These claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for at least the same reasons set forth for newly added claim 32.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 30 and 31 have been allowed.

Claims 7 and 9 have been objected-to, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants for now have not amended claims 7 and 9 by combining them with their base claim and any intervening claims.


Conclusion

Claims 3-5, 7-11, 30-31 and new added claim 32 are in condition for allowance.

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MTS-3278US

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Jack J. Jankovitz, Reg. No. 42,690
Attorneys for Applicants

DNC/JJJ/dmw

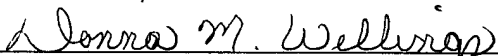
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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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Donna M. Wellings

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Abstract

An information forwarding system and method including an information input device for inputting search conditions to a remote data base. The remote data base includes a search device for searching the data base based on the search conditions so as to gain search results. The information forwarding system includes an information display for displaying the search results; a selector for selecting one, or more, search results from among the search results; and an output device for sending the designated contents selected by the selector to a separate supply device so as to designate the operation of the separate supply device.